

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The specification has been amended as to form.

The Official Action objected to the term "upper" in claim 49. Responsively, that term has been eliminated.

Claims 3, 26, 27, 45, and 46 have been amended to form to clarify that m and n are integers greater than 1.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Official Action indicated that claims 11-15, 19-22, 353-42, 52-54, and 57-61 were directed to allowable subject matter.

In view of this indication of allowable subject matter, certain of the original independent claims and previously depending allowable dependent claims have been amended to be in independent form, as indicated below.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable claim 41 (as well as allowable claims 42 and 52).

Claim 16 have been amended to depend from claim 3 and as to form, incorporating subject matter of claims 4-6.

Allowable claims 19 and 21-22 have been amended to include the recitations of the claims from which it previously depended, excluding claim 16 which did not further limit claim 4.

Claim 24 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable claim 37 (same as allowable claim 38). Claims 37-38 have been cancelled.

Claim 32 has been amended to include allowable claim
35.

Claim 43 has been amended to include allowable claim
52.

As each of the currently pending independent claims include subject matter indicated as being allowable, applicant believes that the case is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

As to the previous substantive rejections, these rejections are believed to be moot in view of the claims having been amended, such that each independent claim includes allowable subject matter.

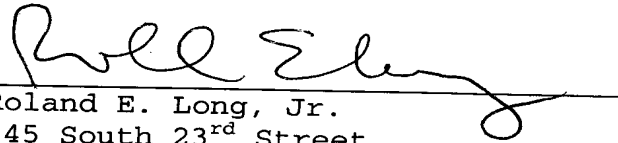
Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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REL/mjr
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